raised in the report through various measures aimed at improving enrolment, retention and learning.

Women Trafficking from Nepal and Bangladesh

2659. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:
SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that women trafficking from Nepal and Bangladesh is on the increase; and

(b) if so, what action is being taken by Government to stop this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The Government is aware of the existence of the problem of women trafficking from Nepal and Bangladesh through India.

(b) Trafficking of Women in one of the agents items in various institutional mechanisms between India and Nepal to deal with cross-border security related issues. These include Joint Working Group on Border Management, Interpol Officers, Meetings and Border District Co-ordination Committees involving District Magistrates/Chief Development Officers and other officials of districts on both sides of the Indo-Nepal border.

The issue of trafficking of women and children has been discussed with Bangladesh in the DG level BSF-BDR talks in 2004 and also during the Home Secretary level talks held between India and Bangladesh.

The Government of India has signed and ratified SAARC Convention on Prevention and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prosititution.

Take Home Ration Policy

2660. SHRI SK. KHABIRUDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to implement "Take Home Ration" policy throughout the country;

(b) the projects implemented so far under this policy, State-wise;

(c) whether Government have conducted any study of impact on the nutrition levels of children as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, supplementary nutrition is one of the services provided to children below 6 years and pregnant and lactating mothers. With a view to ensure better coverage of children below 3 years and pregnant women and lactating mothers, guidelines have been issued permitting these beneficiaries to take ration to their homes. The State-wise number of operational ICDS Projects, where these guidelines are actually being followed is not being monitored at present.

(c) and (d) No evaluation of impact of this specific intervention has been conducted so far. As evaluation of ICDS Scheme conducted by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in 1998-99 revealed that the impact of ICDS Scheme has been significant in reducing Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and levels of malnutrition among children.

Status of I.C.D.S. Projects

2661. SHRI SK. KHABIRUDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of I.C.D.S. projects sanctioned and operational, State-wise;

(b) the number of Anganwadi centres in each project, sanctioned and operational;

(c) the number of posts sanctioned/filled up for Anganwadi supervisors, Anganwadi workers and helpers as on the 31st March, 2005, State-wise; and

(d) the number of C.D.POs and A.C.D.P.Os sanctioned and filled up, as on the 31st March, 2005, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (d) The information, as on 31.12.2004, is given in the Statement